

2019
OREGON REVENUE COALITION
Working Together for Oregon's Future

Date: February 13, 2019
To: Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, Chair Hass and Members
From: Laurie Wimmer/OEA and Chair, Oregon Revenue Coalition
RE: *Senate Bills 188, 304, 319, 674, and 701 {Regarding Estate Tax}*

On behalf of the member organizations listed below, the Oregon Revenue Coalition respectfully opposes these proposals to reduce or eliminate Oregon's estate tax. This tax on only the wealthiest estates should be protected.

In the coming biennium, repeal of the estate tax would cost Oregon \$341 million. These are funds that could be invested in affordable housing, senior services, or any number of other state priorities. Efforts to eliminate or scale back the estate tax would undermine funding for these services by leaving the dollars in the pockets of Oregon's wealthiest heirs. With just \$1 million of those \$341 million, Oregon could fund a full-time trauma-informed coordinator at 10 schools for a year or assist 50 families with down payment assistance for an affordable home.

The Oregon Revenue Coalition has adopted a set of principles that includes equity and progressivity (attached). The estate tax is one of the most progressive taxes in Oregon because it doesn't start until \$1 million, and then its rate rises, scaled to the size of the estate. White households are far more likely to have significant levels of wealth than are households of color. Thus, a tax on wealth, such as the estate tax, is one of the most important tools Oregon has to address equity in its tax code.

Thank you for considering our opposition to any bills weakening Oregon's estate tax, including Senate Bills 188, 304, 319, 674, and 701.

OREGON REVENUE COALITION: AN AD HOC GROUP OF ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING PUBLIC EDUCATION, LONG-TERM CARE, HUMAN SERVICES, ORGANIZED LABOR, CIVIL RIGHTS, THE FAITH COMMUNITY, AND OTHER AREAS. MEMBERS INCLUDE: AAUP-Oregon, Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities, AFT-Oregon, Alzheimers Association, American Association of University Women of Oregon, Alcohol & Drug Program Association of Oregon, Asian Pacific American Network of OR (APANO), Association of Oregon Faculty, Brain Injury Association of Oregon, Cascadia Behavioral Health Care, Inc., Children First for Oregon, Columbia River Pensioners (ILWU), Common Cause Oregon, Community Action Directors of Oregon, Community Providers Association of Oregon, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Gray Panthers of Oregon/Greater Idaho, Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO), ILWU, Jewish Federation of Portland, League of Women Voters of Oregon, League of Oregon Cities, National Association of Social Workers – Oregon Chapter, Neighborhood Partnerships, Oregon Advocacy Center, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans, Oregon Alliance of Seniors and Health Services, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities (O4AD), Oregon Center for Public Policy, Oregon Education Association, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Health Care Association, Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force, Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA), Oregon School Employees Association, Oregon State Firefighters Council, Oregon Student Association, Pacific Northwest Council of Carpenters, PCUN, Rural Organizing Project, SEIU-OPEU, Social Justice Alliance of Josephine County, Support Oregon Services Alliance (SOSA), Survivors Advocating for an Effective System (SAFES), Tax Fairness Oregon, United Cerebral Palsy of Oregon & SW Wash., United Seniors of Oregon, Urban League of Portland, Women's Rights Coalition.

Commented [DH1]: Page B5:
<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/Iro/Documents/final%20.pdf>

Commented [DH2]: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/recent-trends-in-wealth-holding-by-race-and-ethnicity-evidence-from-the-survey-of-consumer-finances-20170927.htm>